GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3525
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2004
NABARD SCHEMES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Farmers Commission`s Chairman has called upon the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to initiate talks with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for making available nearly Rs.1000 crore for various schemes in the rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chairman has also asked NABARD to hold similar talks with the Indian Space Research Organisation for the adoption of information communication technology to disseminate vital information to farmers to make them aware of day to day market development;

(d) if so, whether the NABARD will play a crucial role in addressing the key issues of farmers in distress; and

(e) the extent to which the farmers would be benefited?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a), (b) & (c): National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the Chairman of National Farmers` Commission, in his address as the Chief Guest on NABARD`s Foundation day on 12 July, 2004 requested NABARD to initiate talks with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for utilization of its services as it has large resources in terms of Universal Services Obligation Fund and can provide about Rs.1,000 crore for rural development under the Fund. He also mentioned that Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is keen to establish Village Resource Centres providing enormous data obtained through remote sensing satellites.

(d) & (e): The welfare and progress of the farmers have always been of paramount interest to NABARD. Following Government`s announcement made on 18th June, 2004, NABARD has advised Regional Rural Banks and Co-operatives to carry out debt restructuring and rescheduling and to provide fresh loans to farmers in distress. NABARD has further reported that it has initiated the process of consultation with TRAI and ISRO for full details of the Universal Services Obligation Fund and Village Service Centres from them. The extent of benefit to the farmers would depend on the type of assistance and support received from these organizations.